

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 01182 120638Z

14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2061

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE

SUBJECT: PROTEST AND COMMENTARY ON JULY 7-8 BERLIN WALL INCIDENT

REF: BERLIN 1153

1. SUMMARY: IN PROTEST NOTE TRANSMITTED TO SENAT, GDR
ASSERTED ON JULY 10 THAT JULY 7-8 WALL INCIDENT WAS
"SERIOUS" AND "DANGEROUS" PROVOCATION INCONSISTENT WITH
QA AND WITH NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. PROTEST WAS
IMMEDIATELY AND CATEGORICALLY REJECTED BY GOVERNING
MAYOR AS "HYPOCRITICAL." BERLIN PRESS HAS DEVOTED FAR
MORE THAN USUAL COVERAGE AND COMMENTARY TO INCIDENT,
DRAWING ATTENTION TO STARK CONTRAST BETWEEN
"REALITIES" AT WALL AND TALK OF RELAXATION OF TENSIONS.
END SUMMARY.

2. IN REACTION TO JULY 7-8 WALL INCIDENT (REFTEL, GDR
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TRANSMITTED PROTEST STATEMENT
TO SENAT JULY 10 (VIA TELEX IN KUNZE-MITDANK CHANNEL).
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 01182 120638Z

STATEMENT, WHICH WAS ISSUED BY ADN AND PUBLISHED IN

ALL EAST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS JULY 11, COMPLAINED THAT "A SMALL GROUP OF IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS COMMITTED A SERIOUS PROVOCATION AGAINST THE STATE BORDER BETWEEN THE GDR AND BERLIN (WEST)," AND CHARGED THAT "WESTBERLIN POLICE ORGANS NEGLECTED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS FOR THE PROMPT RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ORDER AND QUIET". GDR STATEMENT CONCLUDED WITH LANGUAGE CHARACTERISTIC OF NOTES TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS: "THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GDR FIRMLY PROTESTS THIS VIOLATION OF ORDER AND SECURITY ON THE STATE BORDER, WHICH IS NOT IN CONFORMITY WITH OBSERVANCE OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON BERLIN (WEST). "IN THE INTEREST OF A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND BERLIN (WEST, THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEMANDS THAT THE SENAT TAKE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS SO THAT SIMILAR PROVOCATIVE INCIDENTS ON THE STATE BORDER OF THE GDR ARE NOT REPEATED."

3. GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ, REJECTED NOTE "CATEGORICALLY" AS "HYPOCRITICAL" PROTEST. GDR WAS WELL AWARE, SCHUETZ DECLARED, THAT ITS OWN CONDUCT PRECIPITATED INCIDENT. SHOOTINGS AT WALL CONSTITUTED PERMANENT PROVOCATION FOR WHICH GDR WAS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE AND WHICH WAS IN CONTRADICTION TO HOPES GENERATED BY HELSINKI CONFERENCE.

4. IN COURSE OF GOLDEN BOOK CEREMONY FOR DEPARTING BRITISH COMMANDANT JULY 11, SCHUETZ AGAIN CONDEMNED SHOOTING OF JULY 7-8 AND UNDERSCORED ITS INCONSISTENCY WITH CURRENT EFFORTS TOWARDS RELAXATION OF TENSIONS IN EUROPE. SIMILAR VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED BY GENERAL CATHCART IN HIS RESPONSE.

5. BERLIN PRESS HAS GIVEN BROADER COVERAGE TO JULY 7-8 INCIDENT AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS, THAN TO ANY WALL INCIDENT IN YEARS. GDR SHOOT-TO-KILL ORDERS WERE ROUNDLY AND UNIVERSALLY CONDEMNED, AND STARK CONTRAST BETWEEN "REALITIES" AT WALL AND "FINE WORDS" SPOKEN IN HELSINKI WAS UNDERSCORED IN SEVERAL EDITORIALS. SPRINGER PAPERS WERE CRITICAL OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR CONTINUING TO EXPAND RELATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BERLIN 01182 120638Z

WITH GDR WHILE SHOOTINGS CONTINUED, AND SAID THAT RECURRENCES WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE IMPACT ON "ALL-GERMAN" POLICIES OF BONN AND EAST BERLIN. COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING WAS EXPRESSED FOR INDIGNATION SHOWN BY INHABITANTS OF MAERKISCHES VIERTEL. PRESS INTEREST IN INCIDENT HAS BEEN KEPT ALIVE IN PART BY JULY 10 STATEMENT BY FEDERAL MINISTER EGON BAHR THAT DEMAND THAT GDR ABOLISH SHOOT-TO-KILL ORDERS COULD NOT BE SERIOUS.

MORGENPOST COMMENTED THAT BAHR, IN PURSUIT OF CLOSER RELATIONS WITH EAST, HAD REACHED POINT WHERE HE HAD TO "INDIRECTLY DEFEND THE INHUMAN BEHAVIOR OF THE GER."

6. EAST GERMAN MFA PROTEST TO SENAT WAS PRECEDED BY ARTICLE IN SEW ORGAN DIE WAHRHEIT JULY 10 (WIDELY REPRODUCED IN EAST GERMAN PRESS) CLAIMING THAT JULY 7-8 INCIDENT WAS PURPOSEFUL PROVOCATION ENGINEERED BY SPRINGER PUBLISHING HOUSE. JULY 11 ISSUE OF DIE WAHRHEIT CARRIED FRONT-PAGE STATEMENT BY SEW CHAIRMAN DANIELIUS REITERATING THIS THEME AND ATTRIBUTING INCIDENT TO "PROFESSIONAL COLD WARRIORS."BORG

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